

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 1, 2006. Claims 1, 2, and 7-13 are now presented for examination. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. New Claims 11-13 have been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 1 and 2 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Support for the amendments to Claims 1 and 2 is provided in the specification as originally filed, at least from page 12, line 23 to page 13, line 1, and in Fig.1. Proposed new Claim 11 is supported by Fig.11, proposed new Claim 12 is supported in the specification as originally filed, at least at page 13, lines 1-4, and proposed new Claim 13 is supported in the specification as originally filed, at least at page 12, lines 5-7.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 2, and 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement, and rejected Claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Without conceding the propriety of these rejections, Claims 1 and 2 have been amended in a manner which obviates both rejections. Accordingly, withdrawal of those rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 6, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0192935 (Joshi et al.) in

view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0190633 (Tagawa et al.). Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Joshi et al. in view of Tagawa et al. Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Joshi et al. and Tagawa et al.

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to even further clarify the claimed subject matter. As amended, Claim 1 recites an image display device, comprising an envelope whose inside is maintained in a reduced pressure atmosphere. The envelope comprises a first substrate, a second substrate opposed to the first substrate, and a frame interposed between the first substrate and the second substrate. The envelope further comprises a first metal film disposed at a portion of the first substrate opposed to the frame, which exposes the first substrate at a center section of the portion and interposes the exposed portion. A low melting point metal is positioned between the first substrate and the frame, and the low melting point metal is brought into contact with the exposed portion of the first substrate and the first metal film so as to make seal bonding of the first substrate and the frame.

Claim 2, as amended, recites an image display device comprising an envelope whose inside is maintained in a reduced pressure atmosphere. The envelope comprises a first substrate, a second substrate opposed to the first substrate, and a frame interposed between the first substrate and the second substrate. The envelope further comprises a first metal film disposed at a portion of the frame opposed to the first substrate, which exposes the frame at a center section of the portion and interposes the

exposed portions. A low melting point metal is positioned between the first substrate and the frame. The low melting point metal is brought into contact with the first metal film so as to make seal bonding of the first substrate and the frame.

By virtue of the foregoing respective image display devices, it is possible to realize an airtight envelope which has greater airtightness and which is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to place in a non-bonding state (i.e., is unbreakable), because the envelope has a double structure of metal film.

It is respectfully submitted that Claims 1 and 2 are clearly patentable over Joshi et al. and Tagawa et el. for the following reasons.

Joshi et al. discloses that the conductive region 12 on the semiconductor substrate 10 and the conductive column 30 (or 31) are connected using a solder joint 35. PbSn and InSb are disclosed as materials of the solder joint 35 (paragraph [0029]), and metals such as aluminum, copper, nickel, or gold are disclosed as materials of the conductive region 12 (paragraph [0019]). In addition, Joshi et al. discloses the structure with a part of the conductive region 12 being covered with the passivation layer 14 (Fig. 1(1)). As materials of the passivation layer 14, there are disclosed silicon nitride, glass, and polyimide, which are different from the material of the conductive region 12.

However, Joshi et al. neither discloses nor suggests an envelope having a first metal film disposed at a portion of the first substrate opposed to the frame, which exposes the first substrate at a center section of the portion and interposes the exposed portion, as recited in Claim 1 (emphasis added). Neither does that reference disclose or

suggest an envelope having a first metal film disposed at a portion of the frame opposed to the first substrate, which exposes the frame at a center section of the portion and interposes the exposed portion, as recited in Claim 2 (emphasis added).

The Office Action relies on Tagawa et al. as teaching substrates formed of glass, and a glass frame formed in between them. However, that reference does not remedy the above-noted deficiencies of Joshi et al. as a reference against Claims 1 and 2 herein. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1 and 2 are each clearly patentable over Joshi et al. and Tagawa et al., whether considered separately or in combination.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Frank A. DeLucia', is written over a horizontal line.

Frank A. DeLucia
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 42,476

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

NY_MAIN 613795v1